

AETC News Clips



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19 Oct 01

MySanAntonio : KENS 5 Eyewitness News

KENS 5 Eyewitness News

Group recommends \$13 million clean up plan for former base

By Itza Guitierrez

KENS 5 Eyewitness News

Web Posted : 10/19/2001 4:27 AM

City council members heard recommendations Thursday from Zephyr Environmental on the best way to clean up former Kelly Air Force Base.

The independent consulting group made clear what it believes is the best choice between six clean-up options offered by the Air Force.

For close to a decade the city has debated how to get rid of the contamination around the former base.

This current recommendation would cover 25 years and cost approximately \$13 million. The work is geared toward cleaning up two chemicals called P.C.E. and T.C.E.

Those chemicals were used to degrease engine parts on the base.

A Department of Defense study concluded those chemicals spilled into the shallow groundwater, contaminating a 10-mile radius around the base.

The plan is to use vertical wells located in isolated hot spots around the base to pump out the water and purify it to meet environmental standards.

During the process, the group also recommended several other actions, including the screening of ground vapors and fruits and vegetables for the chemicals, planting poplar trees, and capping shallow groundwater wells.

The city would also send bilingual mailings to advise residents not to use well water. The memo will reinforce the fact that tap water is safe to use.

The city must still vote on these recommendations. Chavel Lopez from the Southwest Workers Union expressed frustration with the plan.

"We're not satisfied, the community's not satisfied at all. The membership that we represent is frustrated and upset at the fact they have to wait long for a clean-up," Lopez told the city council.

If the city council approves the recommendations, the Air Force hopes to have the remediation system in place by 2003.



Air Combat Command NEWS SERVICE

Released: Oct. 17, 2001

General to return to ACC as commander

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) -- Gen. Hal M. Hornburg has been nominated by the president to return to Langley as commander of Air Combat Command.

Currently the commander of Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB, Texas, the general served as vice commander of ACC in 2000 before taking his current position.

Hornburg joined the Air Force in 1968 and has commanded at all levels: flight, squadron, wing, numbered air force and major command. He commanded a composite fighter wing during Operation Desert Storm and led the Air Force's first composite wing during the service's reorganization in 1991-1992. He directed air operations over Bosnia for Operation Deliberate Force, commanded the Joint Warfighting Center, and served as the Air Force's director of operations.

The general is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in a variety of aircraft, including the F-100, F-4, F-15 and F-16. He flew forward-air-control missions in Vietnam.

Hornburg earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M University, completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and National War College, received a master's degree in human resource management from the University of Utah, and completed a program in national and international security at Harvard University.

The nomination must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. A date for the assumption-of-command ceremony will be announced later.

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During his time as vice commander of Air Combat Command, then-Lt. Gen. Hal Hornburg announced at a press conference that Langley AFB, Va., was the Air Force's preferred location for the first operational F-22 wing. Today the president nominated Hornburg to be the next commander of ACC. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jack W. Braden)

Click on image for higher-resolution copy.

Daily Press

Thursday, October 18, 2001 C3

Langley veteran tapped by Bush to command ACC

Gen. Hornburg
has been assigned
to Langley 6 times

By R.W. Rogers
Daily Press

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE

President Bush picked a familiar face to lead the Air Force's largest command when he nominated Gen. Hal M. Hornburg Wednesday to take the helm at the Air Combat Command.

Less than two years ago, Hornburg was vice commander of the Air Combat Command and during his career has been assigned to Langley six times and once to Fort Monroe.

The Senate must confirm Hornburg before he can take command. Generally, confirmation is a formality. A spokesman in Hornburg's office said the general would decline comment until after a vote, which is yet to be scheduled.

Hornburg now commands the Air Education and Training Command, headquartered at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. The command is responsible for recruiting, training and educating Air Force personnel and numbers 43,000 active-duty members and 14,000 civilians.

Should Hornburg be confirmed, he would be the sixth person to take over the command consisting of 101,000 military and civilian workers and 1,000 aircraft at 17 bases in the United States, Iceland and the Azores.

The Air Combat Command provides fighter, bomber, reconnaissance, rescue and cargo-lift aircraft to the service. It trains, equips and maintains combat-



GEN. HAL M. HORNBURG

ready forces for rapid deployment and also provides nuclear and air defense forces.

In addition, more than 63,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel and 763 aircraft would be assigned to the command should they be federally activated.

Hornburg is a 1968 graduate of Texas A&M University's ROTC program. There, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He later took a master's degree in human resource management from the University of Utah. He also attended the National and International Security Program at Harvard University.

He led a fighter wing during Operation Desert Storm and also directed air operations over Bosnia. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flight hours.

Hornburg replaces Gen. John Jumper, who became the Air Force chief of staff in August.

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To: AETC/PA
But -
from today's
local paper
(Newport News
Daily Press).
JW
18 Oct

Nacho Guarache

by Leo Garza



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Express News
PAGE 7B
DATE 19 Oct 01

- AETC
BASES

News Clips

Compiled by AETC Public Affairs

White powder found at Bedell Post Office

LINDA S. JOHNSON and
ALEJANDRA VALDEZ

Staff Writers

An employee at the United States Post Office on Bedell Avenue found white powder or residue on the floor of the workroom after unloading and removing a pallet.

Postal officials called 911 about 9:30 a.m. to report the situation to the Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) of which Del Rio Fire and Rescue Chief Harold Bean is the official spokesperson. Shortly before 10, Bean told the News-Herald that EMRT is treating the situation as a hazardous materials spill until the substance can be sent to a lab and tested.

Del Rio Police were called to the scene to block traffic from entering the parking lot of the Post Office. Bean called the DRFR's enforcement division to block the entrances of the building, preventing personnel who had

not arrived for work from entering the building. The Federal Bureau of Investigation was also notified of the situation.

"We have called in the Laughlin Air Force Base Hazardous Material Response Team to remove the hazard and clean up the site," said Bean. Laughlin's response team was on the scene within minutes of being advised of the powder on the post office floor.

On the scene with Bean was Laughlin Air Force Base Fire Department Assistant Chief John Rulapaugh who had the postal officials evacuate the building but not allow anyone to leave the premises. He then asked a Del Rio Police Officer to document the names, personal contact infor-

mation and social security numbers of each person who was in the building when the powder was found.

The documentation will serve as a contact resource if the substance is found to be hazardous or toxic.

"Everything we are doing with this situation is precautionary at this point," said Bean. "To say anything more now would be presumptuous - we'll wait for the lab reports."

Shortly after 10:30, DRPD traffic units were dispatched throughout the city to intercept any mail deliveries and instruct the carriers to return to the post office immediately.

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LAUGHLIN AFB, TX

DEL RIO NEWS HERALD

DAY: Wed DATE: 17 OCT 01 PG: 143

Texas Department of Public Safety officers were also told to inform mail carriers who were on routes outside of the city to return to their post offices as well.

DRPD Officer John Lissner entered the post office and was quarantined along with 36 post-office employees who were called back to the office from their routes.

The 37 individuals will be quarantined until results of the powder sample taken from the post office floor is tested and results are received.

Samples were taken by LAFB Hazardous Material Response Team (HMRT) and a sample was taken to Val Verde Regional Medical Hospital for testing.

DRFR Chief Bean made a statement at about 11:30 say-

ing, "Workers were unloading mail and found two piles of powder substance. It could be nothing, but you never know. Samples were taken to the lab at the hospital. Once we know we will know where to go."

Chief Bean stressed there is no need for the public to be alarmed.

Present at the post office are: three agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Border Patrol, DRFR, EMS, DRPD, LAFB HMRT and the Sheriff's Department.

There is an attempt to find a four-door 2001 Mitsubishi, Texas license plates L69HFW, with two white males of European descent. The rent-a-car vehicle is rented out of Boca Raton, Fla., but carries

tags. They were seen at the Bedell Post Office at about 8:30 Wednesday morning by a Border Patrol agent. Suspicions of the men arose when the Border Patrol agent heard the men speaking a foreign language. A call has gone out to all agencies to look for the vehicle.

No other information was available at presstime.

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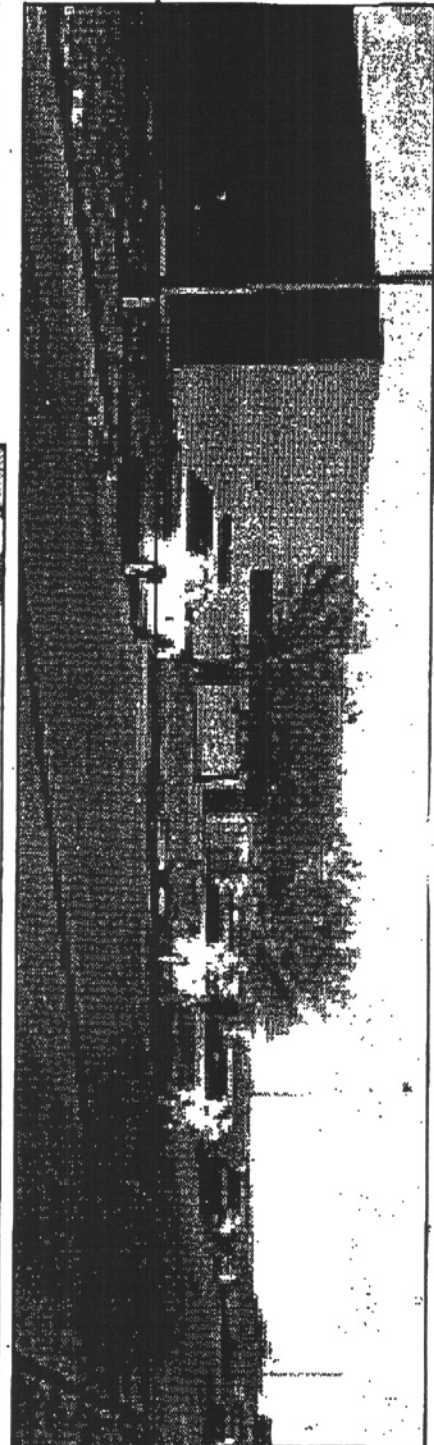
LAUGHLIN AFB, TX

DEL RIO NEWS HERALD

DAY: Wed DATE: 17 OCT 01 PG: 143

News-Herald photos by Alejandra Valdez and Linda Johnson

Del Rio Police Department and Del Rio Fire and Rescue responded to a call at the U.S. Post Office on Bedell Avenue Wednesday morning concerning white powder found on the floor inside the building. The Post Office was evacuated. Due to the anthrax scare at the main Post Office on Bedell Avenue officials also ordered the Post Office on Pecan Street closed off and in doing so closed off the Federal building. Del Rio Police, and Del Rio Streets and Drainage Department put barricades along Garfield Avenue, Main Street and Martin Street to prevent traffic from entering the area.



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LAUGHLIN AFB, TX

DEL RIO NEWS HERALD

DAY: Wed DATE: 17 OCT 2001 PG: 143

Maxwell has training for chemical war

By Cynthia Yeldell
Montgomery Advertiser

Recent cases of anthrax exposure have many Americans on edge and asking the question: Is the military prepared for a chemical or biological attack?

Military leaders from Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base say yes.

Lt. Joel Harper, an Air University spokesman, said at some point in their careers, all Air Force personnel are trained in nuclear, biological and chemical defense.

The classes focus on anthrax and smallpox. Airmen are taught to identify the symptoms of each. Airmen learn to detect chemicals in the air and protect themselves from exposure.

Tech. Sgt. LaTisa Osbourne prepares military personnel for the worst.

"We are under attack," Osbourne yelled to her class of about 20 airmen during a drill on Tuesday. "Gas! Gas! Get those masks on now!" she said.

Trainees had only 15 seconds to take their masks out of a pouch on their waists, put them on their faces, tighten the elastic bands, breathe in and secure the hoods.

Osbourne said every second counts in dealing with hazardous chemicals, and if masks are not on properly, nothing else matters.

"The goal is to survive," she told the class. "If you don't get those masks on in

15 seconds, it's literally a matter of life and death."

Trainees also learn to put on a ground crew ensemble, which includes the mask and a lightweight hazardous material suit, which is lined with a thin, protective layer of charcoal.

The ensemble protects against "any known wartime chemical," Master Sgt. Gary Singleton said.

Airmen also get some exposure to chemicals during the training. Trainees enter a chamber filled with tear agents.

This is so they will be able to recognize hazardous chemicals, he said.

Osbourne said she was exposed to nerve and blister agents as a requirement to become an instructor. Her first-hand knowledge, she

said, gives her an extra incentive to motivate her class.

"Not many people can say they have been exposed," she said. "My job is to prepare people to survive. I figure it's the least I can do."

Tech. Sgt. Charles Wade has been with the Air Force for 16 years and for many of them he was a deployment manager responsible for getting others prepared to serve overseas.

Tuesday, he took part in a refresher course taught by Osbourne. Wade said although he has experience in the area, practice makes perfect.

"The military is always ready," Wade said. "Circumstances may change, but being prepared never changes."

MAXWELL AFB, AL
Montgomery Advertiser, 18 Oct. 01, 1A

Sun City West Independent

17-23 Oct 01

Opinions Section

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Luke doing good job

Our Air Force training base at Luke is doing a good job.

Surprise Independent

17-23 Oct 01

Opinions Section

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Air base is open

For those writers claiming the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 show the need for Luke Air Force Base, they are wrong. Whatever was done could have been done from a more remote and compatible location — an area without the distraction of retirees seeking their shopping privileges. There are many more retirees in the area than pilots. Wherever it is located, it should be a military base, not a discount shopping mall. It is no comfort to read that the post exchange and commissary have been reopened for the convenience of retirees.

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For all of those "I told you so" people, nobody complains about Luke until there is an article in the newspaper. I am not in the military; nor do I plan to be, but jets don't bother me, though I don't really like them either. But, I knew it was here when I moved here. Maybe if you would all be quiet, there wouldn't be articles in the newspaper suggesting we close Luke. It's easy to jump in now and say not to close it. If it closes, there will be a lot of houses on the market, and I don't want to see that. It's good for the economy and the country needs Air Force bases.

Sorry folks, wrapping the flag around yourselves and your brain doesn't change public opinion of Luke Air Force Base and its terrible safety record. The base is a tragedy waiting to happen. We've all been lucky so far. Yes, I can see a safer place living in the area with an aging fleet of F-16's next door to a major metropolitan area and its already crowded skies and communities. Sorry to inform you, Luke didn't protect you any more on Sept. 11 than our military did in New York City and Washington. Don't get me wrong, I appreciate Luke AFB's present mission as a training base, but not its location. Fifty-five years ago, when it was built, it was the perfect spot. But obviously, with the number of crashes and homes built in the area, that's no longer true. I know the location where Luke can continue its mission without dangers of flying high-performance, single-engine fighter jets over populated areas. It's 35 miles south of the current location, already owned by the military with thousands of square miles in unpopulated land. It's called the Barry Goldwater Gunnery and Bombing Range, and that's where pilots spend most of their time flying over anyway. It makes absolute perfect sense to use one of those thousands of acres to carve out a new and better base. New construction could pay for itself in a few years with money saved by use of less fuel flying back and forth to the present location. The "sound of freedom," as you call it, should not be heard over neighborhoods or schools or shopping centers. Neither should the sound of crashing planes, screaming people, roaring flames or hundreds of emergency sirens.

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Peoria Independent

18-24 Oct 01

Opinions Section

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Appreciate Luke

I am from an Air Force family and I just wanted to let you know I appreciate the comment that a resident made about Luke Air Force Base. We do have problems with Sun City and people filing complaints and I would like to add my two cents to this. Basically these are airborne, they're here, they're practicing. Right now they are flying over Afganistan for us. How can we complain about a little bit of noise the boys are making out at Luke. Isn't a shame. I love airborne. I'm very proud of them. I love too hear them fly over. I go outside to admire the Air Force. We have to let Luke Air Force Base know we appreciate their hard work and sacrifice.

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532nd TRS NCO risks life to save another

By MASTER SGT. LLOYD CONLEY

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Recently a missile facility instructor from the 532nd Training Squadron took a moment out of his life to save another.

Staff Sgt. Chris Labine was traveling with his family north along Interstate Highway 5, near Stockton, Calif. He said their trip had been uneventful until he drove through a large cloud of smoke on the highway.

On the other side of a wall of smoke was its cause – an overturned 18-wheeler.

"I never hesitated to go down the embankment to help the accident victim," Labine said.

After parking his vehicle, he made his way down the 20-foot embankment to the still-smoking big rig. As Labine neared the rig, he called out to the driver – there was no answer.

Labine said as he drew closer, he saw blood – it was all over the inside of the semi's cab – but no driver in sight.

The driver, disoriented and lapsing in and out of consciousness, had struggled out of the cab and ended up wedged between the truck's rear wheels and the overturned trailer. He'd lost a lot of blood from wounds to his head, neck and shoulder.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Staff Sgt. Chris Labine

By that time, other drivers had stopped to render aid and had called the California Highway Patrol to report the accident.

Meanwhile, fuel was leaking from the smoking wreck and it was resting on unstable ground – it could slide at any moment – time was of the essence, he said. So, with the assistance of another person, Labine moved the victim up the embankment to a safer location.

Labine said his Air Force self-aid and buddy-care training made his reactions instinctive.

Knowing the driver could go into shock, Labine applied pressure to reduce bleeding while his wife Alicia retrieved blankets from their vehicle.

"Once we had the driver out of harm's way, my wife Alicia took over to make sure the driver was comfortable and stabilized until medical help arrived," Labine said. "She started and kept talking to him to keep him conscious and oriented until the paramedics arrived."

Later, while staying overnight in Sacramento, a news report stated that the driver had fallen asleep at the wheel and left the roadway traveling at about 80 mph. The driver, who wasn't wearing a seatbelt, survived the accident.

"This is a great deed," said Lt. Col. John Anderson, 532nd TRS commander. "We are very proud of his selfless actions."

Anderson has nominated Labine for the Airman's Medal.